

[Translation]

Trains running between Delhi and Jind via Bahadurgarh and Rohtak

2895. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of trains running at present from Delhi to Jind via Bahadurgarh and Rohtak;

(b) whether it is a fact that no new passenger train has been introduced on this route from the last fifteen years whereas the number of passengers on this route has increased manifold;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce any new passenger train keeping in view the increasing number of passengers on this route;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) 18 pairs of trains are running between Delhi/New Delhi & Jind via Bahadurgarh, Rohtak, at present.

(b) No, Sir. Following trains introduced on Delhi/New Delhi Rohtak-Jind section during last 15 years :

1. 6031/6032 Jammu Tawi-Chennai Express (tri-weekly)
2. 6687/6688 Jammu Tawi-Mangalore Navyug Express (weekly)
3. 4721/4722 New Delhi-Sri Ganganagar Express
4. 3413/3483-3414/3484 Farakka Express extended from Delhi to Bhiwani via Rohtak.

(c) Introduction of trains is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification and resource availability. However, there is no proposal at present to run additional train on Delhi-Rohtak-Jind section.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Operational and resource constraints.

Modernisation of Telegraph service in Bihar

2896. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any step for the modernisation to telegraphic services in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether any budgetary allocation has been made for this purpose during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) by when the telegraphic services are likely to be modernised in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the modernisation programme of the Telegraph Network microprocessor based Store & Forward Message Switching Systems (SFMS) have been installed at Patna and Ranchi with ports in 40 districts. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Due to mid course correction of the Modernisation Plan the remaining 13 districts which were to be covered for modernisation, the programme has been delayed.

(c) and (d) No separate budgetary allocation has been earmarked.

(e) The modernisation is an on-going process and as such 3 more Store and Forward systems are likely to be installed at Gaya, Jamshedpur and Chhapra in 1997-98 which will cover remaining 13 districts.

Statement

Sl. No	Name of District	Equipment/Ports
1	2	3
1.	Patna	12 SFMS Ports, 15 EKB & 12 FT
2.	Bhojpur	1
3.	Bhabhua	1
4.	Buxar	1
5.	Rohtas	*
6.	Nawada	1
7.	Jahanabad	1
8.	Gaya	1
9.	Aurangabad	1
10.	Katihar	2
11.	Kishanganj	1
12.	Araria	*
13.	Supal	*
14.	Saharsa	1
15.	Madhepura	*
16.	Purnea	1
17.	Khagaria	1

1	2	3
18.	Begusarai	2
19.	Bhagalpur	2
20.	Pakaur	*
21.	Munghyr	2
22.	Banka	1
23.	Jauri	*
24.	Lakhisarai	*
25.	Sahibganj	1
26.	Dumka	*
27.	Godda	1
28.	B. Deoghar	1
29.	Nalanda	1
30.	Dhanbad	3
31.	Bokaro Steel City	2
32.	Giridih	1
33.	Kodarma	*
34.	Ranchi	5 SFMS Ports, 15 EKB, 6 FT
35.	Lehardaga	1
36.	Gumla	1
37.	Hazaribagh	1
38.	Palamau	1
39.	Garhwa	*
40.	Chapra	2 SFMS Ports, 3 EKB, 2 FT
41.	Chatra	*
42.	East Singhbhum	2
43.	West Singhbhum	*
44.	East Champaran	1 SFMS Ports, EKB, 1 FT
45.	West Champaran	2
46.	Muzaffarpur	2 SFMS Ports, 2 EKB, 5 FT
47.	Samastipur	1
48.	Vaishali	1
49.	Madhubani	1
50.	Darbhanga	*
51.	Siwan	1
52.	Gopalganj	1
53.	Sitamarhi	1

* Ports shall be provided by the end of 1997-98
 FT = Formatted Terminal
 EKB = Electronic.

Stoppage of Shipra Express

2897. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the "Shipra Express" stops at several small stations on Beena-Katni section;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the above train does not stop at "Ganjbasauda" railway station of the central railway; and

(c) the time by which the stoppage of train is likely to be provided at "Ganjbasauda" in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. 9305/9306 Indore-Howrah Shipra Express is stopping at Khurai, Saugor and Damoh on Bina-Katni section.

(b) Stoppage of 9305/9306 Indore-Howrah Express at Ganj-Basoda station has been examined but not found commercially justified.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Air Links to Bhopal

2898. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which air-bus service is likely to be started linking Bhopal to other cities in India keeping in view its capability of landing the air bus; and

(b) the present air-services catering to the needs of Bhopal and the additional air links likely to be introduced during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) At present, Indian Airlines has no plans to start airbus services to Bhopal.

(b) Alliance Air operates 3 days a week service each on the sectors Delhi-Bhopal-Indore-Mumbai and back and Delhi-Gwalior-Bhopal-Indore-Mumbai and back. Indian Airlines/Alliance Air, however, do not have immediate plans to introduce more services to/from Bhopal during the year 1997-98.

Promotion of Tea Tourism in Assam

2899. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Assam with regard to promotion of tea tourism in the State;